

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211325

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, BG, US (RHETT, BARNETT, DR.)

SUBJECT: WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS; DR. BARNETT RHETT

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MINTON FRANCIS
PHONED DESK AUGUST 24 REGARDING AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE, DR.
BARNETT RHETT (AKA RHETTA). FRANCIS HAS JUST RECEIVED A
RATHER CRYPTICALLY WORDED TELEGRAM, APPARENTLY FROM RHETT
IN DACCA, DATED AUGUST 21 WHICH READ AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN QUOTE: STATE DEPARTMENT PRESSURE NEEDED FOR MY
RETURN HOME. END QUOTE. FRANCIS ASKED IF WE HAD AN INFOR-
MATION ABOUT RHETT OR IF WE COULD SPECULATE AS TO WHY DEPART-
MENT PRESSURE WOULD BE NEEDED FOR HIS RETURN HOME. WE GAVE
A NEGATIVE REPLY.

2. FRANCIS HAS NOT BEEN AWARE OF RHETT'S REASONS FOR
BEING IN DACCA BUT DID REVEAL THAT, IN ADDITION TO HIS
REGULAR PROFESSION AS OBSTETRICIAN/GYNECOLOGIST IN WASHINGTON,
HE HAS A MARITIME SIDELINE. A MASTER PILOT, HE HEADS A
FIRM CALLED, CONSULTANTS OCEANIC WHICH DOES CONSULTING
WORK ON SUPER-TANKER SHIPPING. FRANCIS THOUGHT IS POSSIBLE
THAT RHETT MIGHT BE IN BANGLADESH IN CONNECTION WITH THAT
FIRM. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON RHETT'S
WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS WHICH POST CAN PROVIDE. KISSINGER

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PAGE 02 STATE 211325

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